# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3234
ANSWERED ON:23.03.2005
MOBILE PHONE SERVICES IN KARNATAKA
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**Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:**

(a) the total number of the companies providing mobile phone services in Karnataka;

(b) the company-wise number of subscribers so far;

(c) the safeguards through which the Union Government protects the interests of the subscribers;

(d) the areas of Karnataka which have not yet been linked with mobile network;

(e) the time by when the entire Karnataka is likely to be connected with the mobile service network; and

(f) the revenue earned through mobile services in the State alongwith the proportion of earnings and expenditure in the State?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) & (b): Six companies are providing mobile phone service in Karnataka. The name of these companies and the number of subscribers company-wise as on 31-01-2005 is given in the Annexure-I.

(c) In terms of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Act, 1997, TRAI has been, inter-alia, mandated to regulate the Quality of Service, tariff and customer perception in the telecom sector. TRAI has taken various measures to regulate the Quality of Service of Basic and Cellular Mobile Telephone Services, monitoring customer perception through customer survey and tariff related aspects.

(d) & (e): As per coverage criteria in the Licence Agreement, the Service providers are required to cover 50% of District Head Quarters (DHQs) in the service area within 3 years of effective date of Licence Agreement. The Service provider is also permitted to cover any other town in a district in lieu of the DHQ. The choice of DHQ/towns to be covered and further expansion beyond 50% DHQs/towns shall lie with the Licensee depending on their business decision. In view of above provisions of the Licence Agreement, the Government does not maintain the information regarding areas not linked with mobile service in a State. Further, since the expansion beyond 50% DHQs/towns shall lie with the Licensee depending on their business decision, therefore, the Government can not specify any time frame for covering entire Karnataka with mobile service network.

(f) The Government maintains Audited Gross & Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) statement received from various mobile service providers for the purpose of levy of Licence Fee and does not maintain the details of the expenditure made by them. As such proportion of earning and expenditure is not possible to provide. The details of gross revenues earned through mobile services in Karnataka State as per AGR statement provided by various service providers for the year 2003-04 are given in the Annexure-II.

ANNEXURE-I

THE STATUS OF MOBILE TELEPHONE SERVICE IN KARNATAKA TELECOM CIRCLE SERVICE AREA

| Sl.No. | Name of the Operator(s) | No. of Mobile Subscribers as on 31-01-2005 |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Bharti Mobile Ltd. | 1166918 |
| 2. | Spice Communications Ltd. | 339254 |
| 3. | Hutchison Essar South Ltd. | 521184 |
| 4. | Reliance Infocomm Ltd. | 638147 |
| 5. | Tata Teleservices Ltd. | 95598 |
| 6. | Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. | 682159 |

ANNEXURE-II

GROSS REVENUE OF MOBILE SERVICE PROVIDERS IN KARNATAKA [ FOR THE YEAR 2003-2004 ]

| Sl.No. | Name of the Service Provider | Gross Revenue (in Rupees) |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Bharti Mobile Ltd. | 5,016,061,019 |
| 2. | Spice Communications Ltd. | 1,756,945,836 |
| 3. | Hutchison Essar South Ltd. | 1,442,233,522 |
| 4. | M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd. (from WLL handheld) | 1,646,990,108 |
| 5. | M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd. (from Limited Mobility) | 229,391,342 |
| 6. | Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. | 1,855,855,583 |